



**City of Seattle**

## **2001 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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Paul Schell

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## **I. TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

### **A. BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (BRCT)**

In 1999, the BRCT was given the task of examining our state's transportation system and making comprehensive recommendations on how to best improve transportation. We commend the Commission for the breadth and depth of their work, and believe it is critical for the Legislature to act upon their recommendations.

**We support legislative implementation of the following BRCT proposals, which are the most pertinent to Seattle's transportation needs:**

- Preservation and maintenance of the existing system is a critical priority for transportation investment. This must be balanced with initiatives to address congestion and mobility. Funding should be distributed equitably, both preserving the state transportation system and focusing on areas with the greatest transportation challenges.
- There must be investment in a broad, balanced mix of transportation modes along with the creation of flexible funding sources. This should include transportation demand management, as well as other innovative efforts to help lessen congestion and offer transportation choices.
- Reforms to improve efficiency and accountability must be made and their effectiveness measured to assure citizens we are using our limited funds wisely. A standardized means of assessment and data collection can ensure meaningful results.
- We believe the statewide gas tax rates should be increased, with additional, regularly scheduled increases in the future. Changes are needed in the statewide gas tax allocation formula to help assure that revenues are being distributed equitably.
- Regions should be given the opportunity to help solve their own transportation problems. A regional transportation body should be given the tools to help plan, finance, and implement regionally identified transportation priorities and enhancements essential to improved mobility. Cities must be able to address the growing demands on their aging transportation infrastructure. Regional and local revenue sources need to be authorized to make this effort successful.

### **B. STATE FUNDING FOR SOUND TRANSIT (LINK LIGHT RAIL)**

Creating a viable light rail system is critical to the success of the Sound Transit project regionally. The City will actively seek a state contribution to help Sound Transit extend light rail to Northgate and beyond. Possible funding options include a sales tax credit, a "directed" sales tax, and a capital appropriation. Building the line Northward in Phase One will minimize bus traffic in the already-congested University District and make the system more viable for residents of North King and South Snohomish counties. It is also likely to have a positive impact on Sound Transit's ability to extend light rail over Lake Washington and south into Pierce County in Phase II of the project.

## **II. PROTECTING CRITICAL LOCAL REVENUES**

### **A. PRESERVING LOCAL FUNDING**

The passage of I-722, closely following the fiscal impact of I-695, calls for dramatic and on-going cuts to local revenues necessary for critical general government services. We oppose implementation of the provisions of I-722 until related legal and constitutional issues have been settled by the courts. We also oppose any further erosion of local government finances, including cuts to local B&O revenues. We support ongoing, permanent solutions to assure the State helps local government make up lost revenue through appropriations and taxing authority. We support the ongoing effort to examine local government finances and responsibilities.

## **III. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **A. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES & IMPLEMENTATION**

Support the Department of Ecology funding request (\$18.6m) for implementation of the proposed Shoreline Management Act (SMA) guidelines updates and legislation that authorizes a phased implementation approach for local governments. The new rules will require Seattle to revise its Shoreline Master Program in order to develop policies and regulations that protect and improve salmon habitat. The City also supports the creation of a fund, with a \$40 million appropriation within the WWRP that would allow for statewide acquisition of critical shorelines or their development rights.

### **B. SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD**

The Salmon Recovery Board was established by the Legislature in 1999 in order to evaluate, rank, and award state funds for salmon recovery projects. The Board is authorized to award a grant or loan to public or private landowners as well as recognized regional recovery entities. The City of Seattle supports continued funding for Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities.

## **IV. HUMAN SERVICES**

### **A. MODIFYING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF ALL CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

While the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) caseload continues to decline, with more families finding employment, those remaining require more services. Such groups include:

- Parents who care for a disabled child or relative
- Disabled persons
- Grandparents or other non-parent caretakers who are 55 years or older
- Parents with children under 12 months
- Victims of domestic violence
- Persons working at least 20 hours per week but still receiving welfare grants
- Residents with language barriers

As we approach the 60-month lifetime limits, it is critical to explore options for those who may exhaust the time limits, even while complying with the WorkFirst participation requirements.

### **B. MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR FUNDING CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Currently, funding can only be spent on residents receiving public assistance. In order to best serve and meet the needs of all low-income immigrants and refugees, we support allowing state citizenship programs to coordinate funding with local initiatives.

### **C. PROTECTING FUNDING FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

The City of Seattle believes in finding and funding solutions for the human needs of low-income and vulnerable people, so that they may live and thrive. Preserving the safety net for vulnerable populations serves the entire community.

We support the maintenance and enhancement of funding for human services and safety net programs such as the General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) program, food security, and immigrant and refugee assistance. As more working families must rely on child care on a regular basis, we support raising state child care reimbursement rates.

Our budget priorities also include funding for full implementation of the HOPE Act (services for homeless youth), replacing lost federal funding for youth employment programs and increasing funding for actual youth training programs. We also seek an increase in funding for youth development and prevention services.

## **V. PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **A. GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION**

#### **i. Safe Firearm Storage**

Support legislation making it a gross misdemeanor to store or leave a loaded firearm where an unsupervised child is likely to gain access and obtain possession of the firearm. Support increased funding for local initiatives to promote safe storage of firearms. (Whitney Graves)

#### **ii. Statutory Clarification for the Crime of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the First and Second Degree**

This statute prohibits juveniles, convicted felons and those convicted of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. Based on *State v. Thaddius Anderson*, Wn.2<sup>nd</sup> (No.67826-0, August 10, 2000), the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision, reversed 50 years of policy, now placing the burden of proof of unlawful possession of a firearm by the above-mentioned on the prosecution. As a result, it will be easier for convicted felons and juveniles to possess firearms by creating loopholes in the process.

### **B. RACIAL PROFILING**

The City of Seattle is aggressively pursuing action to determine how racial profiling impacts law enforcement in our community. We want to be certain that State legislation is consistent with these efforts. Should the state choose to mandate that local governments gather and report data, we will join other jurisdictions requesting state funding to comply. (See also: Statement of Policy on Civil Rights).

## **VI. HOUSING**

### **A. OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDING FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING**

Providing housing to people at all income levels is a critical challenge for Seattle. We strongly support increased capital funding for the Housing Trust Fund to at least \$100 million, particularly to provide matching funds to private grants, such as the \$40 million recently provided by the Gates Foundation to support homeless families with children in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. It is also crucial that we form a new housing operating support program to provide more adequate funding for transitional, farmworker and developmentally disabled housing

### **B. TENANT/LANDLORD ISSUES**

Support continued local control and autonomy by maintaining and enhancing current state law to ensure the ability to set standards for tenant/landlord relationships that reflect the needs of our community, specifically through returning interest on security deposits to renters. (See also: Other Session Objectives.)

## **I. TRANSPORTATION**

### **A. KING STREET STATION RENOVATION THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

As home to rapidly growing Amtrak service and new Sound Transit commuter rail service, King Street Station serves as a transportation hub for the Pacific Northwest. Renovation costs are estimated to be \$43 million, with an additional \$7.9 million needed to facilitate land swaps with parties involved in the development of the north lot of the former Kingdome. The land swaps will help assure adequate parking and traffic circulation for the facility after the renovation is completed. There is currently a \$20 million funding gap in the project. Seattle supports legislation to bridge the funding gap by authorizing WSDOT to use IRS 63-20 financing for this project. This approach authorizes a private, non-profit organization to issue tax-exempt bonds at the same low interest rates as public debt.

### **B. TRANSIT**

Working in coordination with existing transit systems and other local governments, we support the ability of cities to create their own local transit initiatives, thereby ensuring our ability to better serve the needs of our communities.

## **II. HOUSING**

### **A. TENANT/LANDLORD ISSUES**

Seattle supports a number of additional tools to help provide tenants with safe, affordable, secure housing, including: specifically through:

- Enactment of a state wide just cause eviction law, while also protecting Seattle's current law;
- Provision of enforcement mechanisms to assure that repairs are made and/or reimbursed in a timely manner;
- Assurance that renters have the option of a lease, and
- Repeal or modify RCW 35.21.830 to allow local control of rent laws.

### **B. STATE PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR ELDERLY LOW-INCOME RENTERS**

Seattle supports providing a renter rebate through the return of a portion – possibly a \$100 annual flat amount -- of property taxes paid indirectly by tenants through their rent. Eligible households would include those whose income totaled less than \$30,000 a year, where at least one member of the household was 61 or older. Those currently living in subsidized housing would not be eligible.

### **C. MULTIFAMILY TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM**

Amend the multifamily tax exemption program for owner-occupied units in multifamily ownership projects to allow exemptions to be granted for individual units in a qualifying project when units meet specified criteria for affordability. This change will improve the prospects for ownership at an affordable level.

### **III. PROMOTING & PRESERVING COMMUNITY CENTERS**

#### **A. SEATTLE CENTER REDEVELOPMENT**

Working with a statewide coalition of supporters, Seattle will seek the creation of a capital fund for significant community, cultural, educational, and recreational projects around the state. As a regional gathering place, the Seattle Center provides diverse and dynamic opportunities in the arts, music, recreation and education. We are seeking state support for improvements in facility usefulness and safety at the Seattle Center. As a part of a \$40 million request for community centers in the 2001-03 budget, Seattle is requesting \$12 million over two biennium in State capital funds to support the \$145 million Seattle Center Redevelopment (Phase II).

### **IV. HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **A. FOSTER CARE**

Approximately 30 percent of Seattle's homeless youth are dependents of the state. The recruitment and retention of appropriate licensed foster parents and placement resources/options are essential in keeping our children safe and off the streets.

We also support education and employment training for youths in foster care. In addition, extending Medicaid benefits for young adults transitioning out of foster care to age 21 helps insure a healthy future at an important time in their lives.

### **V. PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **A. JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION**

Support increasing funds for youth violence and delinquency prevention programs.

#### **B. LIABILITY FOR CONDUCT OF OFFENDERS**

Support legislation to limit city and county liability for the conduct of offenders who are released pending their trials or are on probation. (In response to the 1999 Hertog decision.)

#### **C. INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-FRAUD LAWS**

Support increased effectiveness of antifraud laws through updating current laws to reflect technological sophistication available in counterfeiting checks and criminal impersonation using computer technology.

#### **D. CRIME GUN DESTRUCTION**

While the City of Seattle voluntarily destroys all weapons used in the commission of a crime, we support legislation that would require this practice statewide.

#### **E. LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION**

The City of Seattle will work with its coalition partners to establish standards for the requirement of legible name tags on the garments of law enforcement officers.

#### **F. ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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## OTHER SESSION OBJECTIVES

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We support legislation to reduce the number of junk and abandoned vehicles on the public right-of-ways throughout the state, by increasing owner accountability and further deterring abandonment.

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### A. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LAW

- Support legislation that modifies state public disclosure law to ease the compliance burden on local governments of non-routine, high volume, and/or non-specific document requests, particularly as it relates to electronic records, and to ensure the security of government and government facilities.
- Support legislation that modifies state public disclosure law to exempt government workplace mediation programs from disclosure under the Act. This change would ensure the confidentiality of mediations conducted by the City's recently created Alternative Dispute Resolution Program during the initial intake process.

### B. LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Support legislation that authorizes local governments to provide a matching program for local campaign donations. With the enactment of Initiative 134 in 1992, local jurisdictions lost the right to use public funds to partially or fully fund election campaigns. This is an unnecessary restriction on the appropriations authority of local elected officials.

### C. GENERAL CONTRACTOR/CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (GCCM) PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING

Seattle and other jurisdictions, including larger counties and ports, have benefited from the ability to utilize alternative public works contracting. The GCCM approach allows the owners to bring the contractor into a prominent role during the design stage of the project; thus allowing for the opportunity to influence quality, constructability, schedule, delays, overruns, and possibly reduce claims and litigation. This provision in law is slated to sunset in July 2001. Seattle strongly supports the permanent reauthorization of the GCCM. Additionally, the current threshold for projects is a minimum of \$10 Million. To make this a more useful tool, Seattle supports lowering the project threshold to \$3 million or lower.

### D. PAID FAMILY LEAVE

The City of Seattle supports efforts to provide time limited, paid family leave to partially compensate workers who are away from their jobs due to the birth of a child, adoption, personal illness, or illness of a family member.

### E. ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTS

Support legislation to allow courts to issue civil warrants for the purpose of conducting housing, property and health inspections. This would allow the City to obtain warrants to access the interior of structures in order to enforce the City's Housing and Building Maintenance Code.



## **VII. PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **A. ENSURING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM**

The funding losses to public health due to the passage of I-695 were partially mitigated by the state. With the demands on public health growing, it is critical that the State continues to provide these funds, as well as look at areas where new investments need to be made.

### **B. ACCESS AND FUNDING FOR IMMUNIZATIONS**

Support State Department of Health request legislation that will codify the state's programs of universal access and distribution of childhood vaccines. A funding mechanism included in the legislation will allow for better implementation of programs to assure equal access to immunizations and provide tools to identify at-risk populations, assure quality and provide measurement of comprehensive coverage.

### **C. OPIATE SUBSTITUTE TREATMENT**

Support legislation that updates language and standards for administering opiate substitutes such as methadone, to allow physicians to administer treatment in their offices and generally enhance the availability of much-needed heroin treatment programs.

## **VIII. ENERGY**

### **A. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

Support legislation that emphasizes energy efficiency and renewable energy sources as the preferred strategies for meeting the growing demand within the state. Support legislation that promotes clean energy enterprise as an economic development strategy.

## **ADDRESSING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF ALL OUR RESIDENTS**

In Seattle's growing economy, it is important to recognize that concerted efforts must be made to assure that citizens of all incomes and needs have safe, affordable housing, be that emergency shelters, subsidized low-income housing, affordable rental units, or the ability for families to purchase their own home. Seattle supports a variety of tools – as well as an increase in funding – to support this goal.

### **SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS**

Stable housing is a fundamental need for a community's well-being. Seattle supports addressing the needs of homeless children and their families through continued funding, implementation and enhancement to homeless children's plan, including funding to expand emergency shelter capacity and increase rent subsidies and transitional housing. We also support additional state funding for the establishment of an outcome-based referral, assessment and information/support system for homeless persons and families.

We seek to preserve and enhance State funding for youth shelters. Effective implementation and enhancement of the HOPE Act, which aims to address the needs of homeless youth through prevention efforts, increased emergency shelter, increased drug/alcohol and mental health counseling services, and enhanced higher education opportunities is essential in serving this vulnerable population.

We continue to see an increase in the numbers of individuals and families requiring emergency housing. The State's emergency shelters and service programs are critical resources for Seattle's emergency shelter response. We would like to see an increase in allocations for these services.

Unfortunately, even as many continue to experience growing personal wealth, there are homeless working families on our streets and in our shelters. Only 130 of the estimated 550 homeless children in Seattle are provided with child care everyday. We support increased funding for homeless child care.

Operating funds to support public/private partnerships for homeless and transitional housing helps state and local dollars stretch further in providing these essential services.

### **LOW-INCOME AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

There are a number of tools that can help preserve and provide more funding for low-income housing. In addition to more capital and operating funds from the State, Seattle supports:

- Creating a stable, ongoing local funding source for low-income housing.
- Legislative policy changes and funding to help preserve Section 8 housing that is at risk of converting to market rate.
- The Housing Finance Commission's proposal to increase the state bond cap allocation dedicated to housing.

### **NEW HOME OWNERSHIP OPTIONS**

Explore new ways to expand home ownership options for moderate or low-income first time homebuyers, such as incentives to lenders providing financing.

## **EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN**

### **PROVIDE FULL, FLEXIBLE FUNDING & HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN K-12 EDUCATION**

Support the continuation of efforts to fully implement education reform and legislative efforts that link increased flexibility and local decision making in the use of state resources with greater accountability in schools. The Seattle School District would like greater discretion in how to use the funds, such as to create learning opportunities and reinforce learning beyond the regular school day.

### **ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN PERSONNEL**

Seattle supports our school district's interest in advancing action that could result in more teachers in the classroom. One possibility would be to offer alternatives to certification of teachers for mid-level professionals who are seeking to change careers and enter the classroom. Another option is to change the rules concerning retired teachers. Right now, retired teachers are only allowed to work for five months, precluding them from taking a full school year contract. If that rule was changed, some retired, qualified teachers might choose to go back to the classroom for a short time.

### **SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, MODERNIZATION, AND REPAIR**

Support enhanced funding for school construction that recognizes maintenance and modernization needs. Currently, the State formula used to allocate school construction funding leaves Seattle Public Schools (SPS) with little of the available state construction monies, certainly less than its per capita share indicates it should receive.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **CURBING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence rocks the foundation of families and communities. The City of Seattle supports using funding from the welfare caseload reductions for domestic violence shelters and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and increased programming and counseling for children of victims housed in domestic violence shelters.

### **CHRONIC PUBLIC INEBRIATES (CPI)**

The Chronic Public Inebriate population has been a particularly difficult group to serve. Those who are not on the street are often in jails or hospitals, requiring the time of law enforcement and medical professionals without finding an ongoing solution. We support efforts to better address service integration, flexibility in funding use, and the establishment of alcohol impact areas. We also support King County's efforts to strengthen involuntary commitment rules and increase funding for drug/alcohol treatment, especially non-Medicaid clients currently lacking coverage.

### **GUNS AND LOCAL CONTROL**

The City of Seattle supports "local control" legislation authorizing cities to enact ordinances governing local firearm safety and violence reduction measures within their jurisdictions. This includes the authority to limit gun possession in public buildings and public parks. We support school safety measures defining "dangerous weapons" and increasing the penalty for possession of such in school facilities. In addition we support extending mental health evaluation and detention requirements for crimes of felony harassment, bomb threats, and felony assaults when committed on school grounds. In addition, we support funding for mental

health services, peer mediation and other violence prevention strategies to provide a safe learning environment for our children.

## **EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

Everyone has the right to live, work and play free from discrimination. Education, prevention, and investigation serve as building blocks that establish a foundation of respect and protection for all people. Seattle supports changes in State statutes that promote equal access to services and work to eliminate discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and lending practices.

### **RIGHTS FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS**

Seattle believes gays and lesbians should be allowed to legally join their relationships. The City supports adding sexual orientation as a protected class in state civil rights laws against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, or financial services. We oppose legislation that would discriminate against individuals based on their sexual orientation, including areas such as adoption, public services and benefits. Also, we oppose efforts to restrict anti-discrimination action by citizens or government enforcement agencies.

### **RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY**

Racial profiling is illegal, reprehensible, and must not be tolerated. It is ineffective law enforcement policy and offends fundamental democratic principles. All levels of government and law enforcement should be sure they have in place and enforce policies and training to prevent this practice. The fact that racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in our criminal justice system is troubling and should be studied in order to better understand its causes and to help promote civil rights.

### **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

The City of Seattle believes that affirmative action programs are important tools in creating social equity. Such programs continue to be an important part of our personnel process and reflect our priority of creating a workforce that is enriched by the diversity of people we have in our community. We support efforts to ensure continued access by minorities and women to higher education and employment opportunities. We also support legislation adding people with disabilities as additional beneficiaries of the WMBE program, establishing the Washington State Office of Minority, Women's, and Disabled Persons' Business Enterprises.

### **MALICIOUS HARASSMENT**

We support "safe schools" legislation, which would require school districts to create and publicly post anti-malicious harassment policies and train K-12 employees.

## **HUMAN SERVICES – PRESERVING THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET**

### **HUNGER AND NUTRITION**

Support increasing funds for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) for food banks and purchase of food commodities. Costs to operate the food banks are increasing - insurance, rent, food transportation, limited streams of donations - all of these have been impacted by the decrease in State EFAP funding during the 2000-2001 biennium.

Despite the strong economy, local emergency food providers report heavy requests for food assistance. Charitable institutions and volunteers are making tremendous efforts to fill gaps in the nutrition safety net, but hunger and food insecurity persist. According to the US Conference

of Mayors, requests last year for emergency food assistance increased in 85% of survey cites; across the cites, increases averaged 18%.

Support funding requests that will strengthen access to the Food Stamp Program, particularly for working families with children, homeless people, immigrants, elderly, and disabled persons. Include measures to increase and systematically track the success of food stamp outreach education efforts.

### **SERVING THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

The City of Seattle is focused on breaking the cycle of poverty by fostering choices and supporting efforts toward success. We would like to launch every child into a successful future by enhancing early childhood education, supporting affordable and quality child care and strengthening professional development opportunities and wage equity for child care providers.

#### **i. Eligibility for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)**

Expand eligibility for ECEAP, making eligibility and vendor rates more consistent with Head Start, Medicaid, and other public programs. Additionally, funding is needed to enable providers to implement new program standards.

#### **ii. Early Learning & Out-of-School Time Opportunities for Children & Youth**

Recent research shows that learning starts at birth. It is therefore crucial to the success of Washington's children that we support efforts to increase the resources available for parent education and caregiver training, childcare quality, affordability and availability. Additionally, we support a dramatic increase in out-of-school-time programs for all school-age children, with special emphasis on middle school age youth. We support legislation supporting local initiatives such as Seattle's "Project Lift-Off."

#### **iii. Increasing Support For Youth**

Shifting juvenile justice system spending from detention to prevention and youth development is crucial for the success of our state's youth. The City of Seattle is working toward re-investment of funding from institutional to community based prevention and intervention strategies, as well as effective outreach and support services for at-risk youth. Youth employment opportunities are critical for the success of youth.

### **GENERAL ASSISTANCE UNEMPLOYABLE (GA-U) AND MENTAL HEALTH**

The City of Seattle recognizes that the GA-U program allows program participants to afford housing and medical coverage, providing them with more stable lives. We support the continued programmatic and funding integrity of the GA-U program, as well as expansion of the Belltown supportive employment pilot project to other locations in Seattle and other cities. Additionally, we support efforts to address the funding gap in mental health services, dual diagnosis treatment, and mental health parity in insurance coverage.

### **AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

Support the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging's initiatives and proposals for investment in the long-term care system including livable wages for home care workers, reasonable caseload ratios and workers compensation for individual home care workers. Seattle supports increased funding and flexibility in the implementation of the Senior Citizens Services Act and respite care.

**REINVEST SAVINGS TO HELP FAMILIES SUCCEED**

In order to ensure the long-term economic stability of families who are currently on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), it is critical that caseload savings be reinvested in the program. We support strong legislative involvement in monitoring the WorkFirst program and in welfare reinvestment decisions.

Some key areas where these funds should be reinvested include: Statewide mass marketing and outreach efforts to ensure access and address high rates of underutilization of public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, and subsidized child care.

Support enhanced opportunities for upward mobility, including measurable wage progression strategies, and increased education and training opportunities. Support legislation providing increased financial assistance and work-study.

**PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF WASHINGTON RESIDENTS****BASIC HEALTH PLAN (BHP) AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)**

The availability and affordability of health care insurance is a critical component to assuring the health and well being of our citizens, and of our public health in general. BHP and CHIP provide many of our low and moderate-income residents the opportunity to have health care coverage. Seattle supports expansion of the BHP, with affordable premiums, to assure all eligible adults can participate in the program. We also support further expansion of CHIP, including funding for outreach, increased sponsorship, and eligibility at a higher level to assure that all of our children are covered and we are utilizing federal funds to the best of our ability.

**USE OF TOBACCO FUNDS AND LIMITING YOUTH TOBACCO ACCESS AND USE**

Washington State is one of the few states in the nation that have dedicated its tobacco settlement funding to health care and prevention/cessation of tobacco use. It is critical that these funds continue to be preserved for these purposes, and that the State's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program receive substantial, ongoing funding.

Additionally, we support efforts to limit and eliminate the use of tobacco by minors. We support passage of Youth Access legislation, which makes it harder for youth to obtain cigarettes, and encourages expansion and development of programs to curb and prevent youth smoking.

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE & TUBERCULOSIS DETECTION**

Seattle and King County support the creation of a permanent revolving fund for communicable disease emergency response and tuberculosis (TB) detection. Pressing problems presented by emerging infectious diseases and the increasing occurrence food-borne illness outbreaks have no reliable means of being addressed.

**MUNICIPAL REVENUES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****PROTECT LOCAL B&O AUTHORITY**

Business and Occupation (B&O) taxes are a critical part of the City's revenue base. For the past year, Seattle has been working with the AWC and other cities to create a model ordinance governing our local B&O systems. We are working to protect local authority to levy and collect local B&O taxes while assuring that taxes are collected in the most streamlined, equitable manner possible. We do not support legislation preempting local collection authority or impairing our revenue from this source.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS**

Seattle supports economic development initiatives giving local government the tools necessary to attract and retain business and put underutilized property to productive use. This includes support for the Community Revitalization Act, which allows cities to use revenue generated by new development to pay for infrastructure improvements, and the Main Street Business Development legislation, which would create a series of small tax credits to allow business districts to develop and promote themselves. (See also: Land Use and Infrastructure)

**WATER & THE ENVIRONMENT**

The City of Seattle places a high importance on protecting the environment as a means of maintaining the quality of life for both current and future generations. The City therefore supports state policies that provide greater flexibility to local governments to meet environmental standards in a manner that is most compatible with their communities. The City also encourages greater coordination among state agencies that develop and implement environmental regulations and policies that impact local governments.

**CLEAN WATER AND WATER RESOURCES**

Ensuring a safe, reliable, high-quality source of drinking water for its citizens is a priority for the City of Seattle. The City therefore supports on-going efforts by federal, state, and local governments to maintain the quality of our salt waters, freshwater lakes and streams, and aquifers. The City also supports continued state funding to assist local governments in protecting drinking water sources and controlling stormwater pollution.

Ensuring an adequate and reliable supply of potable water is a high priority for the City of Seattle and a primary responsibility of Seattle Public Utilities. The City therefore supports legislation that promotes water conservation, facilitates water transfers and interties, and encourages regional water planning based on local needs. The City also encourages continued cooperation and collaboration among state agencies that enforce and implement water policies impacting local governments and municipal water suppliers. The City opposes any diminution of municipal water rights.

**CLEAN AIR**

The City of Seattle supports State policies and funding initiatives that maintain air quality levels necessary to protect against adverse effects upon humans, animals, and plants. The City also supports a stable funding source to ensure that essential federal and state requirements are maintained, including air quality monitoring, grants to local air pollution control agencies, and compliance with state and federal air quality laws.

I-695 repealed a \$2 per vehicle excise tax that funded approximately half of the Department of Ecology's air quality program. The 2000 state budget restored 90% of the lost funding. The City of Seattle believes that maintaining air quality is an integral part of preserving the environment and protecting its citizenry against environmental hazards, and that these funds should be protected. The City supports state funding and policy incentives that encourage the use of cleaner burning alternative fuel vehicles and high efficiency vehicles.

**SOLID WASTE**

The City of Seattle recognizes that cities play an essential role in the collection and disposal of solid waste, including recyclable materials. The City supports development of common standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, and legislative initiatives to increase waste reduction and recycling. The City also encourages state and local government to cooperate in finding adequate and stable markets for recyclable and recycled products.

In response to legislation introduced last session that would have amended the Residential Landlord Tenant Act to recognize “recycling” as a basic utility service, the Seattle-King County Apartment Association is working cooperatively with Seattle Public Utilities staff to voluntarily increase the number of individuals and housing units that utilize recycling services.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**

As both a regulator of contaminated sediments sites and a local entity that is also regulated by the state, the City of Seattle has a vested interest in supporting policies and funding initiatives that contribute towards more efficient and effective methods of waste cleanup. The City supports continuation of state funding to local governments for cleaning up hazardous waste sites. The City also supports additional state technical assistance to local governments for the handling, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

**ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS****ENERGY**

As the electric industry is being restructured nationwide, the City of Seattle seeks to ensure that its publicly-owned electric utility---Seattle City Light, continues to provide low-cost, reliable, environmentally sound electric power to its residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

The City of Seattle will continue to be involved in state actions relating to electric industry restructuring, including decisions made in the allocation and utilization of regional energy resources. The City supports energy efficiency efforts and state energy code standards. The City also supports energy conservation and the development of reasonable economic non-traditional and/or renewable energy sources.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Due to the passage of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act and recent advancements in technology, changes in the telecommunications industry will have significant impact on the citizens, businesses, and other organizations located within the City of Seattle.

The City of Seattle encourages cooperation among governmental agencies and businesses in the deployment of technology services to citizens, businesses, and local governmental agencies. Participation of local governments in state actions that impact regulation of telecommunications is critical, especially in areas such as rights-of-way management, zoning and land use, and taxation; as well as telecommuting, electronic networking, and other technological opportunities. The City of Seattle opposes any state preemption of authorities historically and traditionally vested in local governments over the management of local rights of way.



## **LAND USE PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

### **LAND USE STATUTES, SMART GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

The City of Seattle supports the use of the Growth Management Act (GMA) as the primary means of planning for growth in our city, region, and state. We support efforts to further integrate and streamline state land use and related statutes including SEPA, GMA, SMA and LUPA, but without weakening protection of critical areas. We oppose legislation weakening these statutes, promoting sprawl, or adding financial burdens to local governments through unfunded mandates. We believe it is vital that land use and transportation decisions be closely integrated if we are to begin to address sprawl-related issues such as traffic congestion – land use patterns must allow efficient transportation choices.

Seattle supports efforts to strengthen the Growth Management Act through passage of legislation and direction of funding that promotes and rewards efforts to direct growth into urban areas, with the provision of enhanced urban-level services. Incentives should be created to encourage the building of affordable housing and transit oriented development. We will work to identify and seek funding for critical infrastructure needs as outlined in Capital Plans, and secure a commitment of state funds to help meet those needs.

## **TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

The City of Seattle recognizes that tribal governments, cities, and towns share many common goals, including but not limited to natural resources protection, economic vitality, infrastructure financing, and economic development. The City encourages cooperation between cities, towns, and tribal governments on issues of mutual concern and recognizes that tribal sovereignty originates from a different source than state or federal sovereignty, yet is part of the federal system of government, as demonstrated by numerous federal and state court decisions, congressional action, and presidential order.

The City encourages other local governments to recognize this unique sovereign status, and while we will work to protect its rights under state law, the City will also seek to work with tribal lawmakers to avoid conflicts where possible, by focusing on mutual interests in providing the best services to all constituents. The City will also work to incorporate the intent of this values statement throughout its various priorities and objectives.